GRADED

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF SÃO PAULO

Middle School Course Catalog

2026-2027

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CURRICULAR OVERVIEW **4**
ELECTIVES OVERVIEW **5**
DEPARTMENTS & COURSE DESCRIPTIONS **6**
ACADEMIC SUPPORT DEPARTMENT 6
Academic Support Grades 6-8 6
English for Academic Purposes Grades 6-8 6
BRAZILIAN SOCIAL STUDIES (BrSS) DEPARTMENT 7
Brazilian Social Studies (BrSS) 6 7
Brazilian Social Studies (BrSS) 7 7
Brazilian Social Studies (BrSS) 8 8
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT 9
Design and Modeling 9
Introduction to Robotics 9
Innovation & Design 9
Robotics for Engineers 10
Robotics for Programmers 10
HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT 11
Humanities 6 11
Humanities 7 11
English 8 and Social Studies 8 12
Journalism 13
International Relations - Model United Nations 13
Public Speaking 14
Service Learning 14
Economics & Financial Literacy 14
Introduction to Philosophy 14
Creative Writing 15
History of Art: Ways of Seeing 15
MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT 16
Math 6 16
Math 7 16
Math 8 and Math 8-Extended 16
PHYSICAL HEALTH & EDUCATION (PHE) DEPARTMENT 18
Physical and Health Education 6 18
Physical and Health Education 7 18
Physical and Health Education 8 18
PORTUGUESE AND PORTUGUESE AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE DEPARTMENTS 19
Portuguese as an Additional Language (PAL) A 19
Portuguese as an Additional Language (PAL) B 19
Portuguese as an Additional Language (PAL) C 19
Portuguese as an Additional Language (PAL) D 20
Portuguese 6 20
Portuguese 7 21
Portuguese 8 21

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT 22
Science 6 22
Science 7 22
Science 8 23
VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT 24
MUSIC 24
Beginning Band 24
Beginning Choir (Vocal Music) 24
Beginning Orchestra 24
Junior Band (Intermediate & Advanced) 25
Junior Choir (Vocal Music) 25
Junior Orchestra (Intermediate & Advanced) 25
MS Guitar 25
MS Piano 26
THEATER ARTS 26
Theater 6 26
Theater: Backstage (Grade 7 & 8) 26
Theater: Acting (Grade 7 & 8) 26
Theater: Find Your Voice (Grade 7 & 8) 27
VISUAL ARTS 27
Art and Drawing 27
Art and Clay 27
Art and Color 27
Digital Art 28
Digital Video 28

CURRICULAR OVERVIEW

Overview

Graded's middle school uses a block schedule with eight rotating class periods. Some courses are part of the core program, while others are electives. The diagrams below show a typical schedule for students in grades 6 and 7, as well as a slightly different schedule for students in grade 8.

Grade 6 Schedule*

1	2	3	4
Humanities	Elective 1	Math	Science
5	**6**	**7**	**8**
Portuguese or PAL	Elective 2	Humanities	PHE

**Not necessarily in this order*

Grade 7 Schedule*

1	2	3	4
Humanities	Math	Elective 1	Science
5	**6**	**7**	**8**
Portuguese or PAL	Humanities	Elective 2	PHE

**Not necessarily in this order*

Grade 8 Schedule*

1	2	3	4
Social Studies	Math	Elective 1	Science
5	**6**	**7**	**8**
Portuguese or PAL	English	Elective 2	PHE

**Not necessarily in this order*

ELECTIVES OVERVIEW

Graded offers a variety of electives designed to enrich the student experience. From visual and performing arts to design and technology to the humanities, our middle school students are exposed to a wide range of options and opportunities to learn new skills and pursue their interests.

While students choose their elective classes, please note that some electives are required depending on whether the student: (a) is enrolled in the Brazilian Accredited Program (or BAP), and (b) qualifies for academic support classes. *Details about these required electives can be found below.*

There are four different elective scenarios based on the combination of criteria outlined above. Please note that most elective courses are semester-long.

The four elective scenarios are as follows:

Scenario 1 *BrSS = Yes* *Support = No*	**Semester 1**	**Semester 2**
	BrSS	***CHOICE***
	CHOICE	***CHOICE***

Scenario 2 *BrSS = Yes* *Support = Yes*	**Semester 1**	**Semester 2**
	BrSS	***CHOICE***
	Support Elective	Support Elective

Scenario 3 *BrSS = No* *Support = Yes*	**Semester 1**	**Semester 2**
	CHOICE	***CHOICE***
	Support Elective	Support Elective

Scenario 4 *BrSS = No* *Support = No*	**Semester 1**	**Semester 2**
	CHOICE	***CHOICE***
	CHOICE	***CHOICE***

Detailed descriptions of all elective courses are included below in the Program and Course Descriptions section of this course catalog.

DEPARTMENTS & COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ACADEMIC SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

Optimal Learning Services
The Optimal Learning Services (OLS) Program supports students with identified learning differences, empowering them to become confident, autonomous learners who meet or exceed grade-level standards. Learning specialists in the OLS collaborate with students, parents, teachers, and other community stakeholders to provide individual, small-group, and classroom-level interventions. These include strategies within daily routines, classroom structures, and curricular activities.

Academic Support Grades 6-8

Length: Year/Semester
Grade: Grades 6, 7, and 8
Note: By special enrollment

The Academic Support class provides support and accommodations for students with identified learning needs. Students in the Academic Support class are capable of meeting Graded's academic standards but require the reteaching of some concepts, additional practice on classroom material, and direct instruction in the skills necessary to be independent and successful learners.

Depending on their learning profile, students may spend their entire day in mainstream classes or receive 80 minutes of support every other day in a small-class setting designed to meet their specific needs. Some students may also receive in-class support.

English for Academic Purposes Grades 6-8

Length: Year/Semester
Grade: Grades 6, 7, and 8
Note: By special enrollment

The Graded Middle School English Language Learner (ELL) Program is designed to foster the acquisition of English and assist students in acquiring the cognitive and academic proficiency necessary for success in the mainstream curricular program of the school. Students enrolled in ELL attend regular subjects (humanities, science, and math). If required, they receive 80 minutes of additional content language instruction and support every other day in an English for Academic Purposes (EAP) class. Students also receive additional push-in language support in their mainstream classes.

BRAZILIAN SOCIAL STUDIES (BrSS) DEPARTMENT

Brazilian Social Studies no middle school é composto por dois componentes curriculares: História do Brasil e Geografia do Brasil. Ministrados em português e organizados em cursos semestrais, esses componentes investigam a formação, a organização e as transformações do Brasil a partir de uma perspectiva histórico-geográfica.

Os estudantes constroem e exploram conceitos estruturantes de Geografia e História sob uma abordagem científica. Tempo, espaço, paisagem, território, escala e sistemas sociais conduzem a análise de como diferentes grupos humanos, instituições e práticas culturais contribuíram para a construção do Brasil ao longo do tempo e na interação natureza-sociedade.

Geografia do Brasil
Nos cursos de Geografia do Brasil, os estudantes desenvolvem o raciocínio geográfico e o pensamento espacial, investigando como processos naturais e ações humanas organizam e transformam o território brasileiro.

História do Brasil
Em História do Brasil, os alunos analisam processos históricos, diferentes interpretações do passado e as narrativas produzidas por distintos grupos sociais, por meio do estudo de fontes históricas.

A área também dialoga com campos do conhecimento como Sociologia, Filosofia e Economia, ampliando a compreensão dos estudantes sobre fenômenos sociais, políticos e culturais. As aulas valorizam a investigação e a análise de diferentes tipos de fontes e dados, incentivando os estudantes a formular perguntas, construir interpretações e comunicar argumentos fundamentados sobre a realidade brasileira.

Brazilian Social Studies (BrSS) 6

Length: Semester
Grade: Grade 6
Note: Required for all Brazilian students and those wishing to pursue a Brazilian diploma

O curso de Geografia do Brasil no 6º ano introduz os estudantes aos conceitos fundamentais da Geografia e ao desenvolvimento do raciocínio geográfico. A partir dos conceitos de espaço geográfico e paisagem, os alunos analisam as relações entre natureza e sociedade na organização do espaço brasileiro.

Desenvolvem-se habilidades de representação espacial e linguagem cartográfica, utilizando mapas, imagens e recursos digitais para analisar e representar fenômenos espaciais.

Ao longo do semestre, os estudantes investigam características naturais e processos socioambientais do Brasil, com destaque para a formação das regiões Norte e Centro-Oeste, ampliando a compreensão das dinâmicas que estruturam o espaço geográfico nacional.

Brazilian Social Studies (BrSS) 7

Length: Semester
Grade: Grade 7
Note: Required for all Brazilian students and those wishing to pursue a Brazilian diploma

O curso de Geografia do Brasil no 7º ano aprofunda os conceitos desenvolvidos no 6º ano, com foco na diversidade regional e nas dinâmicas socioambientais do território brasileiro. A análise de paisagem

constitui uma ferramenta central para o desenvolvimento do raciocínio geográfico, estimulando habilidades de observação, interpretação e análise crítica do espaço.

Os estudantes compreendem como processos naturais, sociais, culturais e econômicos interagem na formação das diferentes regiões do país.

Por meio do uso de mapas, imagens, dados e estudos de caso, os estudantes investigam as características e os desafios das regiões Nordeste, Norte e Centro-Oeste, ampliando sua compreensão da diversidade ambiental e social do Brasil.

Brazilian Social Studies (BrSS) 8

Length: Semester
Grade: Grade 8
Note: Required for all Brazilian students and those wishing to pursue a Brazilian diploma

O curso de História do Brasil no 8º ano introduz os estudantes ao entendimento da História como ciência e aos processos históricos relativos ao Achamento e ao início da colonização do Brasil. Orientados pelos conceitos estruturantes de tempo e sistemas sociais, os alunos investigam mudanças e permanências sobre questões socioeconômicas, políticas e culturais.

Os estudos se iniciam com a instrumentalização da História como ciência, passam pelos antecedentes do Achamento do Brasil na esfera europeia e chegam ao início da colonização portuguesa na América. O contato entre o Velho e o Novo Mundo é avaliado com a problematização da perspectiva eurocêntrica frente os povos originários e africanos. Temas específicos estudados são o feudalismo europeu, a formação dos Estados-Nações modernos, a África pré-colonial, expansão marítima europeia, bases da colonização portuguesa na América, os contatos entre europeus e indígenas e o Brasil Holandês.

A análise de fontes históricas, documentos e narrativas permite aos estudantes desenvolver habilidades de investigação, interpretação e construção de argumentos históricos fundamentados. Com isso, constroem-se pontes entre o passado e o presente para compreender a complexidade do Brasil como resultado do processo de colonização moderna.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Design and Modeling

Length: Semester
Grade: Grade 6

In this course, students explore the design process and develop an understanding of how creativity and problem-solving influence everyday life. They are encouraged to apply what they learn to propose thoughtful solutions to authentic problems, strengthening their ability to think critically and approach challenges with originality.

Design and Modeling introduces students to tools and practices used to plan, design, and model ideas across different fields. Throughout the course, students engage with elements of the Design Thinking process, learning how to investigate problems, generate ideas, and communicate possible solutions.

Through these experiences, students develop a deeper appreciation for the role of empathy, creativity, and problem-solving when designing solutions that respond to real needs and contexts.

Introduction to Robotics

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 6

In this hands-on course, students explore the exciting world of robotics by designing, building, and programming robots using the VEX IQ platform. Working in teams, students tackle a series of engineering challenges in which their robots must navigate obstacles, complete tasks, and compete in friendly classroom competitions. Along the way, students learn how mechanical systems, sensors, and computer code work together to control robotic systems. Through testing, iteration, and problem-solving, students develop foundational skills in engineering design, coding, and collaboration.

This course provides a strong foundation for students interested in continuing their robotics learning in middle school engineering and programming robotics courses.

Innovation & Design

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8

Innovation & Design is a course in which students design intelligent automated solutions for the Graded community.

Students interview educators, staff members, and students from different grade levels to identify real needs and opportunities for improvement. Based on their research, they design and build physical systems using micro:bit, sensors, actuators, and mobile applications.

Projects combine physical construction, programming, and automation. Students create prototypes that respond to user interaction and environmental input, integrating microcontrollers and data collection with digital interfaces.

Throughout the course, students follow the design thinking process to develop meaningful, smart solutions that create a positive impact within the school community.

Robotics for Engineers

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8

In this hands-on course, students explore the mechanical and engineering side of robotics using the VEX V5 Robotics platform. Students learn how to design, build, and test robotic systems while applying principles of structural design, motion, and mechanical advantage. Through a series of design challenges, students experiment with gears, drivetrains, and mechanisms that allow robots to move and manipulate objects. Emphasis is placed on the engineering design process, problem-solving, and iterative testing as students develop the skills needed to build effective robots for real-world tasks and competitive robotics environments.

This course helps prepare students for advanced robotics courses and competitive robotics opportunities in high school.

Robotics for Programmers

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8

In this hands-on course, students focus on the programming and control systems that bring robots to life. Using the VEX V5 Robotics platform, students learn how to program robots to move, sense their environment, and respond to inputs through structured code. Students explore concepts such as variables, logic, sensors, and autonomous routines while developing problem-solving and debugging skills. Through a series of programming challenges, students create increasingly sophisticated robot behaviors and gain experience with the coding skills used in competitive robotics and automated systems.

This course helps prepare students for advanced robotics courses and competitive robotics opportunities in high school.

HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

Humanities provides students with the opportunity to engage deeply and critically with stories of how individuals and societies meet challenges, create meaning, and set the conditions for flourishing and progress. By learning about the experiences of real and imagined people in literature, history, art, and social science, students develop a meaningful point of reference for identifying and affirming their core values, understanding perspective and identity, and honing their ability to argue and advocate on issues of social justice with equal parts logical reasoning and compassion. These experiences help students become both confident and effective communicators.

Humanities 6

Length: Year
Grade: Grade 6

OVERVIEW
Grade 6 Humanities is a yearlong exploration of identity, environment, resilience, and the power of storytelling. The course investigates the Hero's Journey and encourages students to see themselves as heroes-in-training—navigating challenges, reflecting on personal growth, and discovering the power of their voices. Through a combination of literary analysis, historical investigation, and real-world connections, students develop a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

LEARNING AREAS OF FOCUS
Students explore essential questions such as: *What makes someone a hero? How do we grow through challenges? How do individuals show courage and resilience in the face of injustice?* Units focus on systems of power and inequality—both past and present—while also highlighting the people who have stood up to create change. Students investigate the lives and stories of everyday heroes who have demonstrated bravery, compassion, and leadership in the face of adversity. These narratives inspire students to consider how they, too, can act with courage and resilience in their own lives.

SKILLS FOCUS
Students develop foundational academic skills in reading, writing, and research. They build reading stamina by exploring a range of texts in greater depth and breadth. Students also learn to write compelling narratives, clear and logical arguments, and informative texts. They practice crafting strong theme statements for literary analysis and thesis statements for research writing. They learn to organize ideas clearly, support claims with evidence, and deepen their thinking through discussion, feedback, and revision.

SIGNATURE PROJECTS OR EXPERIENCES
Key learning experiences include writing a personal Hero’s Journey narrative, engaging in analytical writing using the Claim-Evidence-Reasoning (CER) framework, and completing a formal research project on a real-world event or issue. These projects allow students to develop and apply their skills in both narrative and expository writing.

Humanities 7

Length: Year
Grade: Grade 7

OVERVIEW
This course guides students in exploring how societies create and maintain power and order—and how individuals and groups resist injustice. Through the study of history, geography, civics, and literature,

students build an understanding of how belief systems, laws, and narratives shape societies. Students read fiction and nonfiction texts to deepen their understanding and articulate their own thinking about issues of power, order, resistance, and education.

LEARNING AREAS OF FOCUS
Students explore the balance between order and individual freedom by examining Tokugawa Japan and the fictional society in *The Giver*. They investigate the use of power and resistance in the context of American slavery and abolition, analyzing texts like *Nightjohn* and primary historical documents. The year culminates with an examination of Nazi Germany, focusing on how education, propaganda, and legal systems can reinforce or challenge injustice. Essential questions guide inquiry, such as: *How much order is too much? How do people get and keep power? What causes someone to resist—even at great personal cost?*

SKILLS FOCUS
Students develop critical thinking, analysis, and argumentative writing skills. They evaluate primary and secondary sources, build historical empathy, and analyze how authors convey themes through literary elements. Students practice collaboration, revision, and communication to share their thinking effectively with varied audiences.

SIGNATURE PROJECTS OR EXPERIENCES
Major projects and experiences include informational posters, dystopian short stories, historical simulations, cooking demonstrations, song analysis, creation of a museum exhibit, and a literary essay.

English 8 and Social Studies 8

Length: Year
Grade: Grade 8

ENGLISH 8

OVERVIEW
English 8 invites students to explore the power of the voice and personal expression in literature and in life. Through diverse texts, students examine how individuals use language to engage with and influence the world.

The class encourages students to think critically, not just about their roles in their community but also about how they give voice to their own stories. Capstone projects include the composition and delivery of an original speech, the recitation of a poem, a formal literary essay, and a creative personal essay.

LEARNING AREAS OF FOCUS
English 8 grapples with the question, *How do we use our voice to meaningfully participate in society?* It examines this question through various literary forms, from drama to creative nonfiction, allegory to direct address. Students analyze authorial intent, explore concepts of identity, change, and conviction, and develop their own writing voices.

SKILLS FOCUS
English 8 is fundamentally a communication course. Students are taught to examine how language and structure create impact and to apply their understanding on the page, on the stage, and in a persuasive, public address. Their experiences in Harkness discussions, peer critique circles, and public speaking support clarity and confidence in their written and spoken expression.

SIGNATURE PROJECTS OR EXPERIENCES
Capstone projects include the composition and delivery of an original Call to Action speech, the recitation of

a poem, a formal literary essay, and a creative personal essay. Course texts include George Orwell's *Animal Farm* as well as course readers that include classic and contemporary selections of poetry, personal essays, and historical speeches.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

OVERVIEW
This course explores how revolutions shape societies and challenge systems of power. Students examine key historical revolutions—the Industrial, Russian, and Iranian—to understand how people respond to injustice and drive change. The course builds historical understanding and critical thinking to help students make sense of complex issues in today's world.

LEARNING AREAS OF FOCUS
Students explore the causes, consequences, and perspectives surrounding major revolutions. Guiding questions include: *Do all revolutions bring progress? How does power shift? Whose stories get told?* Core concepts include causation, perspective, and progress. The course ends with a "Call to Action" project where students connect past revolutions to a contemporary issue.

SKILLS FOCUS
Students develop skills in evidence-based argument, perspective analysis, and connecting ideas across time and place. Collaboration, critical thinking, and creative problem-solving are emphasized through discussion and inquiry-based learning. Students also practice empathy and ethical reasoning when evaluating revolutionary change.

SIGNATURE PROJECTS OR EXPERIENCES
Students participate in debates, simulations, and Harkness-style discussions to deepen understanding. The "Call to Action" capstone challenges students to propose solutions to real-world issues using lessons from history. Core resources include primary sources, historical documentaries, and *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi.

HUMANITIES ELECTIVE CLASSES
In addition to the core Humanities classes, the following electives may also be offered. Humanities elective offerings may vary from year to year.

Journalism

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Course may be repeated

This course introduces students to the skills of a journalist: researching, reporting, interviewing, writing, editing, and digital publishing. Students choose their topics for investigation and practice their new skills as they create authentic articles for publication and presentation in middle school and beyond.

International Relations - Model United Nations

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Course may not be repeated

This course offers an introduction to the key concepts and frameworks of International Relations. Over the semester, students explore foundational theories, global political structures, and the role of nation-states,

international organizations, and non-state actors in global affairs. The course is structured into four thematic units, each designed to build a comprehensive understanding of international dynamics and the skills necessary for analyzing global issues.

Public Speaking

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Course may not be repeated

Public Speaking provides students with a fun foundation for approaching public speaking occasions with an emphasis on voice, body language, and reading a target audience. It includes a brief introduction to structuring both impromptu and prepared speeches. This class aims to nurture an improved sense of self-confidence and offers effective communication tips while helping students learn to be respectful and supportive audience members. Students practice providing specific and relevant feedback on what they see and hear in presentations and prepare a range of speeches during this course, from impromptu and special-occasion speeches to formal persuasive speeches.

Service Learning

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Course may not be repeated

Service Learning is designed to help students develop essential skills, including critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, teamwork, responsibility, and citizenship. These learning objectives are systematically integrated into the five interconnected stages of the Service Learning framework–investigation, planning and preparation, taking action, reflection, and demonstration/communication.

Throughout these five stages, students are consistently challenged to expand their worldview, resulting in significant personal growth. The skills developed at each phase transform how students think and act, fostering passion and empathy. This comprehensive approach helps students appreciate diversity, understand complex social challenges, and develop innovative solutions. By engaging with real-world issues through structured service learning, students become more informed, empathetic, and action-oriented citizens prepared to make meaningful contributions to society.

Economics & Financial Literacy

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Course may not be repeated

Economics & Financial Literacy offers middle school students the chance to explore economics, personal finance, and macro- and micro-economic principles. Students engage in hands-on activities and simulations to develop their understanding and enhance their financial decision-making skills.

Introduction to Philosophy

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Course may not be repeated

The course introduces middle school students to fundamental philosophical concepts, with a focus on logic and reasoning. Introduction to Philosophy equips students with critical thinking skills, structured argumentation, and logical analysis. Students develop analytical abilities useful in academic and real-life contexts by exploring mythological consciousness, common sense, critical thought, deductive and inductive reasoning, and Aristotelian dialectics. Whether analyzing media content, debating ethical dilemmas, solving everyday problems, or constructing persuasive arguments, they learn to think more clearly and communicate their ideas effectively.

Creative Writing

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Course may not be repeated

In this course, students learn strategies for better expressing their thoughts and ideas through writing and work together to edit and refine their work. Students write short fiction and creative criticism, exploring a variety of styles, genres, and methods to best communicate their ideas.

History of Art: Ways of Seeing

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Course may not be repeated

Art offers a vivid record of human experience, revealing how we have navigated change, conflict, and belief throughout history. In this course, students learn visual thinking strategies to analyze artifacts as texts and use images, objects, and architecture as windows into the societies that produced them. Students broaden their ways of seeing and gain a deeper understanding of how art and history inform one another.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

The mathematics curriculum is designed to provide students with a solid foundation in mathematical concepts and problem-solving skills. With a focus on algebra, geometry, and statistics, the program develops critical thinking, abstract reasoning, and communication skills. A range of opportunities for growth and enrichment challenges students at every level. These courses prepare students for success in high school and beyond.

Instruction/Classroom Activities
The middle school mathematics program uses a variety of strategies to provide a differentiated environment that appropriately challenges all students. Students engage in math through various learning experiences that target problem-solving, reasoning, communication, and mathematical connections. Student reflection and teacher feedback are critical to helping students grow as math learners.

Math 6

Length: Year
Grade: Grade 6

Grade 6 math students study a variety of topics across six main units based on the American Education Reaches Out (AERO) standards. Students in Math 6 develop their problem-solving skills and conceptual understanding of math in the following areas: numbers and operations, measurements, patterns, functions, algebra, geometry, and data analysis. Through a combination of projects and traditional skill-based practice, they are guided to see the connection between math as an academic exercise and math with practical applications in real-world situations.

Math 7

Length: Year
Grade: Grade 7

Grade 7 math students study a variety of topics across six main units based on the American Education Reaches Out (AERO) standards. Students explore numbers and operations and their use in real-life decision-making. This includes exploring the real-life use of rational numbers, percentages, ratios, and proportions. Students use probability and data analysis to make informed decisions and use angle relationships to solve problems. They explore unknown quantities in expressions, equations, and inequalities; solve two and three-dimensional geometry problems; and investigate number patterns in linear algebra.

The grade 7 math course builds upon the grade 6 course in a fully differentiated environment. Students are given a wide choice in their level of practice. Class discussions and group work happen at multiple levels within the classroom. Enrichment and rigor are provided through various open-ended activities, projects, and practice tasks.

Math 8 and Math 8-Extended

Length: Year
Grade: Grade 8
Note: Math 8-Extended enrollment is determined by placement recommendation

The middle school mathematics program focuses on meeting students at the right level to help them be engaged, challenged, and successful. We currently offer two grade 8 courses, Grade 8 Math and Grade 8

Math-Extended, designed as part of the K-12 math continuum to prepare students for success in further mathematical exploration.

Grade 8 Math focuses on rational expressions, equations, factoring, applications, inequalities, graphing, and irrational numbers. These skills form the foundation for high school math studies. Students cover the AERO core topics, including algebra (expressions, equations, and linear systems), geometry (2D and 3D shapes), statistics (bivariate data), and number skills (the real number system, including rational and irrational numbers) as part of the core content. Students are provided opportunities to extend beyond the core content in this class. These opportunities may include deeper exploration, increased opportunities for problem-solving, and access to extension topics, including quadratic equations. These topics are expected of students in the **Grade 8 Math-Extended** class.

In **Grade 8 Math-Extended** class, the first-semester content runs parallel to that of the **Grade 8 Math** class. However, in **Grade 8 Math-Extended**, students cover the content more quickly and explore it more in-depth. The two courses share 75% of their content in the second semester. **Grade 8 Math-Extended** students complete quadratic equations, while **Grade 8 Math** students explore 3D Geometry and the application of formulas.

How are determinations made for placement into Grade 8 Math classes?
All grade 8 students have immediate access to the **Grade 8 Math** class by default. When making placement recommendations for **Grade 8 Math-Extended**, we consider the following:

- Math course grades from grade 7
- NWEA MAP math percentile scores
- Teacher recommendation and consideration

We communicate recommendations for the **Grade 8 Math-Extended** class toward the conclusion of the student's grade 7 experience in early June.

PHYSICAL HEALTH & EDUCATION (PHE) DEPARTMENT

Physical & Health Education helps students develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to lead active and healthy lives. It fosters positive communication, teamwork, resilience, and self-awareness while supporting overall health and well-being. It emphasizes progress, effort, and understanding over performance, aligning with the goals of developing lifelong physical literacy.

Physical and Health Education 6

Length: Year
Grade: Grade 6

This course encourages students to develop personal and social responsibility, motor skills, game strategies, teamwork, communication, collaboration, and leadership, while appreciating the value of healthy habits and lifelong skills. These skills and concepts are developed through participation in net and wall games, swimming, invasion games, target games, striking and fielding, and recreational activities.

In health units, students focus on the benefits of healthy lifestyles by evaluating their well-being and developing strategies to improve their wellness choices.

Physical and Health Education 7

Length: Year
Grade: Grade 7

This course encourages students to develop personal and social responsibility, motor skills, game strategies, teamwork, communication, collaboration, and leadership, while appreciating the value of healthy habits and lifelong skills.These skills and concepts are developed through participation in net and wall games, invasion games, striking and fielding, track and field, and recreational activities.

In health units, students focus on selecting and researching a personal wellness goal and creating an action plan for themselves, family/friends, or the community.

Physical and Health Education 8

Length: Year
Grade: Grade 8

This course encourages students to develop personal and social responsibility, motor skills, game strategies, teamwork, communication, collaboration, and leadership, while appreciating the value of healthy habits and lifelong skills.. These skills and concepts are developed through participation in net and wall games, invasion games, striking and fielding, martial arts, life-saving and rescue, and recreational activities.

In health units, students focus on identifying, developing, and using skills to promote healthy relationships.

PORTUGUESE AND PORTUGUESE AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE DEPARTMENTS

Graded's Portuguese Language Program empowers students to achieve fluency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in Portuguese and develops intercultural competence. By engaging in purposeful and collaborative communicative and academic activities that provide insight into the students' heritages, they increase their awareness of the identities of others and learn to respect and embrace differences within an international community of learners.

Portuguese as an Additional Language (PAL) A

Length: Year
Grade: Grades 6, 7, or 8

This course is designed for students who have never been exposed to the Portuguese language or have had very few opportunities to interact with it. For these beginners in Portuguese, this course is an essential introduction to the language, its sounds, its simple structures, and Brazilian culture. The main goal is to help students interact using important basic vocabulary to help them communicate. This course develops essential listening and speaking skills, supporting students in understanding and participating in everyday conversations. It emphasizes communication strategies, pronunciation, and vocabulary acquisition. By the end of the year, students talk about everyday topics that affect them directly and role-play real-life situations, such as talking in familiar contexts, such as restaurants and parties. Students produce a book called *Minha vida no Brasil* as a result of their year-long work, which is an important reflection on their lives in Brazil and their own cultural identities.

Portuguese as an Additional Language (PAL) B

Length: Year
Grade: Grades 6, 7, or 8
Note: Upon completion of the PAL A prerequisite or by teacher approval

This course is designed for students who have been exposed to the Portuguese language for at least one year or who may have a strong Latin-rooted linguistic background and show a minimum proficiency in interacting in the target language without referring to their native language(s). PAL B is focused on consolidating fluency in Portuguese, increasing essential vocabulary in topics such as housing, cities, food, and identities, and beginning to develop Portuguese writing skills. Students begin to consolidate past tense structures at this level. Conversation, comprehension, and writing abilities continue to increase through projects that allow students to learn the language and understand aspects of Brazilian culture. Emphasis is placed on developing oral fluency, reading comprehension, and writing skills. Students engage in collaborative learning and cultural inquiry through interdisciplinary projects in topics, such as Carnaval.

Portuguese as an Additional Language (PAL) C

Length: Year
Grade: Grades 6, 7, or 8
Note: Upon completion of the PAL B prerequisite or by teacher approval

This course is designed for students who have been exposed to the Portuguese language for a year and a half to two years and who have knowledge of the present, future, and past tense structures. The course aims to strengthen intermediate language production and expression. They consistently work towards progressing from sentence to paragraph-level productions. Students talk about memories through personal

anecdotes, read a variety of legends, and then write their own narrative texts and legends. They also speak more freely in Portuguese when discussing familiar topics. Students refine storytelling techniques, focusing on structure, rhythm, and intonation. They improve their ability to express opinions and experiences with clarity and fluency. A highlight of the course includes creating original narratives inspired by the students' lives and previous experience, as well as telling personal stories orally and in writing. Authentic texts and media are used to support language development and cultural understanding.

Portuguese as an Additional Language (PAL) D

Length: Year
Grade: Grade 6, 7, or 8
Note: Upon completion of the PAL C prerequisite or by teacher approval

This course is designed for students who have been exposed to the Portuguese language for at least three to four years and have knowledge of the present, past, and future tenses, and the indicative, imperative, and subjunctive modes. At this level, students can use Portuguese to share aspects of their own cultures and heritages and the places they have lived. The emphasis is to refine and improve fluency and accuracy when interacting in Portuguese. Students' proficiency in speaking continues to improve as they discuss contemporary subjects and issues. There is a strong emphasis on advanced communication, critical thinking, and writing. Students analyze authentic texts, practice argumentation, and expand their expressive range in Portuguese. Students participate in in-depth cultural projects, debates, and presentations. Language acquisition is supported through interdisciplinary approaches that connect historical, social, and cultural contexts to language use.

Portuguese 6

Length: Year
Grade: Grade 6

Este curso anual destina-se a alunos de Português como língua materna ou com nível avançado de proficiência. O objetivo geral é aprimorar habilidades de expressão oral e escrita, bem como ampliar o repertório de leituras, abrangendo gêneros como o seminário, notícias de jornal, crônica, conto, poesia, relato pessoal, romance e outros.

O curso tem uma bibliografia comum centrada em textos de autores contemporâneos em língua portuguesa. Trabalhamos com romances de autores brasileiros e africanos e um romance traduzido, além de contos e poemas selecionados pelo/a professor/a. A lista de leituras obrigatórias inclui as seguintes obras: *O rapaz que não era de Liverpool*, de Caio Riter; *O menino que caiu no buraco*, de Ivan Jaf; *O livro Selvagem*, do autor mexicano Juan Villoro, e alguns contos do livro *Os da minha rua*, do autor angolano Ondjaki. A bibliografia é atualizada periodicamente e inclui, ainda, artigos e outros textos selecionados pelo/a professor/a.

A experiência cinematográfica complementa o estudo da linguagem e das narrativas. A produção audiovisual na sala de aula é mais uma fonte geradora de debates e problematizações temáticas e estéticas, tendo como um dos princípios norteadores a inserção do aluno na produção cultural do Brasil.

As atividades de produção escrita têm como ênfase a exploração dos elementos e momentos da narrativa, ficcional ou não, e uma introdução aos textos expositivos, com exercícios que estimulam, também, a criatividade e o próprio desenvolvimento do hábito da escrita. Em termos de análise linguística, o foco é a introdução e aprofundamento dos conteúdos de morfologia, juntamente com a revisão de questões ortográficas, acentuação, pontuação e outras convenções da escrita.

Portuguese 7

Length: Year
Grade: Grade 7

Este curso anual destina-se a alunos de Português como língua materna ou estrangeiros com nível avançado de proficiência. O objetivo geral é aprimorar habilidades de expressão oral e escrita, bem como ampliar o repertório de leituras, abrangendo gêneros como o debate, a apresentação oral, poesia, conto, resenha crítica, romance e outros.

O curso tem uma bibliografia comum obrigatória, bem como leituras adicionais de escolha do aluno, com a orientação do/a professor/a. Alguns dos autores lidos são: Mario Quintana, Adriana Falcão, Paulo Leminski, Manuel Bandeira, Carlos Drummond de Andrade, Augusto dos Anjos, Mia Couto, dentre outros escritores contemporâneos e clássicos. A bibliografia é atualizada periodicamente e inclui, ainda, artigos de opinião, resenhas e outros textos de não-ficção, bem como outros textos selecionados pelo professor.

As atividades de produção escrita têm como ênfase a exploração dos elementos da narrativa, ficcional ou não, e os fundamentos da argumentação, com exercícios que estimulam, também, a criatividade e o próprio desenvolvimento do hábito da escrita.

A experiência cinematográfica complementa o estudo da linguagem e das narrativas. A produção audiovisual na sala de aula é mais uma fonte geradora de debates e problematizações temáticas e estéticas, tendo como um dos princípios norteadores a inserção do aluno na produção cultural do Brasil. A música brasileira também é objeto de nosso estudo, sendo que a unidade final do curso, foca na audição e trabalho com as músicas do álbum “Da lama ao caos”, do grupo Chico Science e Nação Zumbi, bem como de textos de apoio de diferentes gêneros.

Em termos de análise linguística, o foco é o aprofundamento dos conteúdos de morfologia já introduzidos no sexto ano, especialmente o estudo dos verbos, e a introdução à sintaxe, juntamente com a revisão de questões ortográficas, de acentuação e outras convenções da escrita.

Portuguese 8

Length: Year
Grade: Grade 8

Este curso anual destina-se a alunos de Português como língua materna ou com nível avançado de proficiência. O objetivo geral é aprimorar habilidades de expressão oral e escrita, bem como ampliar o repertório de leituras, abrangendo os gêneros poesia, conto, romance, relato pessoal, biografia, autobiografia, memória, entrevista, documentário e artigo de opinião. A bibliografia se divide em livros de leitura obrigatória e coletâneas de contos, poemas e outros gêneros textuais, permitindo ao aluno escolher. O trabalho é feito com autores contemporâneos brasileiros, portugueses e de países africanos com expressão em língua portuguesa. Trabalha-se, primeiramente, a escrita pessoal, com foco no relato pessoal, passando ao gênero ficcional (romance, conto e poesia) para que possamos terminar com uma introdução ao estudo dos gêneros argumentativos. As atividades de leitura e de expressão oral se desenvolvem em torno das atividades de produção escrita. Em termos de análise linguística, o foco está na revisão de questões ortográficas, de acentuação e outras convenções da escrita, assim como a introdução ao estudo aprofundado da sintaxe, dando início ao estudo do período simples. A experiência cinematográfica complementa o estudo da linguagem e das narrativas. A produção audiovisual na sala de aula é mais uma fonte geradora de debates e problematizações temáticas e estéticas, tendo como um dos princípios norteadores a inserção do aluno na produção cultural do Brasil, focando-se, neste curso, nas produções documentais.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Science courses in Graded's middle school provide an environment that enables students to become independent learners through observation, questioning, hands-on investigation, and analysis to construct scientific knowledge. Through activities that develop a variety of skills, students are encouraged to become proactive and responsible problem solvers capable of making informed decisions based on evidence. As they become scientifically literate, Graded students develop an awareness of the connections between society, our local environment, and the world.

Science 6

Length: Year
Grade: Grade 6

Grade 6 Science is an inquiry-driven course that introduces students to the core principles of matter, energy, Earth systems, and living organisms. Students begin by exploring how thermal energy affects the behavior of matter, investigating particle motion, energy transfer, and changes of state through hands-on phenomena and design challenges. They then examine forces that act at a distance, focusing on gravity and its role in shaping motion on Earth and in space. By developing models of the Earth-Moon-Sun system, students explain patterns such as seasons, lunar phases, and eclipses. Students extend their understanding of systems by investigating how Earth's surface has changed over time. Using evidence from rocks, fossils, and landforms, they construct explanations for processes such as plate tectonics, erosion, and volcanic activity. The course also introduces life science through the study of cells and body systems, exploring how organisms function, obtain energy, and respond to their environment. Throughout the year, students engage in scientific and engineering practices, including modeling, analyzing data, constructing explanations, and designing solutions, building a coherent understanding of how systems interact and change across scales.

Some of the Big Questions students explore throughout the year are:

- How does thermal energy cause matter to change, and how can we use that knowledge to design systems to control those changes?
- How does gravity shape our view of the universe and our experience on Earth?
- How can we create a model to show the relationship between gravity and the motion of celestial bodies?
- How can we use our knowledge of Earth's geological history to tell the story of our planet?
- How do cells and body systems interact to use energy, process information, and maintain the life and function of an organism?

Science 7

Length: Year
Grade: Grade 7

Grade 7 Science is an inquiry-driven course that helps students understand how scientific principles explain the natural world across multiple scales, from atoms to global systems. Students begin by investigating the structure of matter, learning how atoms and molecules determine the observable properties of substances, and applying this knowledge to identify unknown materials through evidence-based reasoning. They then explore Earth systems, examining how energy from the sun drives the water cycle, atmospheric circulation, and regional climate patterns. Students extend their understanding of systems through the study of ecosystems, using eco-columns to model how matter and energy flow and how interactions among organisms influence stability and change. Building on this foundation, they analyze human impacts on ecosystems and propose solutions to protect biodiversity using scientific and engineering practices. The

course concludes with an exploration of electric and magnetic forces, when students investigate how forces act at a distance and design systems that apply these concepts. Throughout the year, students engage in hands-on investigations, modeling, and problem-solving, developing the skills to analyze evidence, construct explanations, and design solutions.

Some of the Big Questions students explore throughout the year are:

- How does the makeup of matter influence the characteristics of a substance?
- How does the movement of energy through Earth's systems create patterns of weather and climate?
- How do interactions between living and nonliving things impact the balance within ecosystems?
- How do changes in ecosystems and human activity impact populations, resources, and the balance of Earth's systems?
- How do electric and magnetic forces act at a distance, and what factors affect their strength?

Science 8

Length: Year
Grade: Grade 8

Grade 8 Science is an inquiry-driven course that helps students understand how matter, energy, and living systems interact and change over time, from chemical reactions to the evolution of populations. Students begin by investigating chemical reactions, learning how substances transform while matter is conserved and energy is transferred, and applying this understanding through the design of systems that manage thermal energy. They then explore how genetic information is stored and passed through DNA, examining how traits are inherited, how variation arises through reproduction, and how genetic technologies can influence these processes. Students extend their understanding of living systems through the study of natural selection, using models and simulations to explain how traits and environmental conditions interact to shape populations over time. The course concludes with an exploration of forces and motion, where students investigate how forces, mass, and energy determine movement and design solutions that reduce the impact of collisions. Throughout the year, students engage in hands-on investigations, modeling, and engineering design, developing the skills to analyze evidence, construct explanations, and solve complex problems.

Some of the Big Questions students explore throughout the year are:

- How can we use evidence to determine if matter has changed, even when we can't see what's happening at the particle level?
- How can we investigate how environmental and genetic factors affect how organisms grow?
- How do traits and the environment interact to shape populations over time?
- How can we use our understanding of natural selection to design a simulation or game?
- How do forces, mass, and energy interact to determine how objects move and change?

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

The Graded Arts faculty believes the arts are among humanity's greatest and most noble achievements. The artistic expression of deep human feeling and emotion transcends all other forms of communication and is a measure of all great civilizations, past and present.

Working alongside one's peers to create a work of great power and beauty is an important and profound experience with tremendous relevance in today's rapidly changing world. The arts are an essential part of every young person's education, and it is our mission to provide Graded students with these experiences.

This listing includes all of the possible elective offerings in the visual & performing arts; the exact elective class offerings can vary from year to year.

MUSIC

Beginning Band

Length: Year
Grade: Grade 6

Beginning Band students receive basic skills training on a specific wind instrument such as the flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, or tuba. Instruction is provided in a mixed-instrument class setting, and as skills progress, the class eventually becomes a performing music ensemble. Level-appropriate playing fundamentals are stressed, including proper posture, breathing, embouchure development, and playing technique. Music literacy is also a priority, and students are expected to demonstrate the ability to read simple music notation fluently upon completion of this course. **All students in Beginning Band must attend concert performances.** Successful students are prepared to enter the Junior Band upon completing this course.

Beginning Choir (Vocal Music)

Length: Semester or Year
Grade: Grade 6
Note: Course may be repeated

Students have the opportunity to develop their musical and vocal skills by performing a wide range of choral music. They address music reading, vocal production, ensemble performance techniques, musical analysis, historical context, and the emotional/psychological aspects of choral music performances. We explore concepts such as time, place, intention, style, and aesthetics. Advanced students have the opportunity to audition for the Association for Music in International Schools (AMIS) Latin American Honor Choir. **All students in Beginning Choir must attend concert performances.**

Beginning Orchestra

Length: Year
Grade: Grade 6

In this introductory course for string instrument players, students learn how to play the violin, viola, cello, or bass in a group environment while performing a variety of music styles. Students who already know how to play a string instrument are welcome to join this class and expand their abilities by working on advanced

projects. Upon successful completion of this course, students are prepared to enter the Junior Orchestra. **All students in Beginning Orchestra must attend concert performances.**

Junior Band (Intermediate & Advanced)

Length: Year
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Prerequisite is completion of Beginning Band or teacher approval; placement is based on auditions

Students in Junior Band receive intermediate-level wind and percussion instruction and work collectively as a performing music ensemble on their chosen musical instruments. Fundamentals such as posture, breathing, embouchure development, and playing technique are constantly reinforced, and students study a wide range of concert literature suitable to their ability level. Music literacy is emphasized, and students are expected to demonstrate fluency with music notation at the intermediate level upon class completion. Successful grade 8 students are prepared to enter the Senior Band following this course. We encourage advanced students to play in select ensembles, and they may apply and prepare for auditions for the AMIS International Band Festival. **All students in Junior Band must attend concert performances.**

Junior Choir (Vocal Music)

Length: Semester or Year
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Course may be repeated

Students have the opportunity to further develop their musical and vocal skills by performing a wide range of choral music. They address music reading, vocal production, ensemble performance techniques, musical analysis, historical context, and music's emotional/psychological aspects. We explore concepts such as time, place, intention, style, and aesthetics. Advanced students have the opportunity to audition for the Association for Music in International Schools (AMIS) Latin American Honor Choir. **All students in Junior Choir must attend concert performances.**

Junior Orchestra (Intermediate & Advanced)

Length: Year
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Prerequisite is completion of Beginning Orchestra or teacher approval; placement is based on auditions

This course brings together students of varying levels and grades to play a repertoire of orchestral pieces. Students acquire the necessary theory and technical dexterity to improve their playing skills. We encourage advanced students to play in select ensembles, and they may apply and prepare for auditions for the AMIS International Orchestra Festival. **All students in Junior Orchestra must attend concert performances.**

MS Guitar

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Course may be repeated

Guitar is a semester-long course for students of all skill levels. In a group setting, students learn and develop skills in playing chords, solos, and fingerings on the acoustic guitar. They also study music theory, appreciation, and history, and learn to listen to and read music. No previous experience is required.

MS Piano

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Course may be repeated

This course is designed for individuals with limited or no prior piano experience. Over the course of a semester, students learn to read and understand piano music as well as a typical lead sheet with melody and chords. Students develop foundational piano techniques, create and play chords as an accompaniment for contemporary songs, and play well-known piano standards across a variety of musical styles.

THEATER ARTS

Theater 6

Length: Semester
Grade: Grade 6
Note: Course may be repeated

The Theater 6 course aims to introduce students to storytelling elements while simultaneously developing core theatrical skills such as clarity, collaboration, concentration, confidence, control, creativity, and positive risk-taking. Students learn how to structure a scene using foundational theatrical techniques, develop compelling characters, and improvise spontaneously in front of an audience. The Theater 6 course consists of the following:

- **Drama Games:** Students build ensemble skills, focus, and creativity through structured play and theatrical exercises.
- **Creating a Scene:** Students learn scene structure techniques, including exposition, conflict, and resolution to craft engaging theatrical moments.
- **Developing a Character:** Students explore character development through voice, physicality, objectives, and relationships.
- **Improvisation:** Students practice thinking on their feet and responding authentically to create unscripted performances in front of an audience.

Theater: Backstage (Grade 7 & 8)

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Course may be repeated

- **Understanding Production Process:** Students grasp the production journey, focusing on stage design elements.
- **Design Elements and Storytelling:** Learning how design enhances storytelling's impact by making intentional choices.
- **Problem Solving and Refinement:** Designs refined through feedback and critical thinking.
- **Comprehensive Participation:** All students engage in set, lighting, publicity, sound, costumes, and props.

Each semester offers different productions, providing new learning opportunities so that students may repeat the course and learn new content. **All students in Theater: Backstage (Grade 7 & 8) must attend performances.**

Theater: Acting (Grade 7 & 8)

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Course may be repeated

- **Foundational Acting Skills:** Students delve into the core of acting techniques guided by different acting approaches.
- **Collaborative Scene Creation:** All actors join forces to breathe life into scenes, resulting in captivating final performances.
- **Character Development:** Through collective and individual efforts, students hone their characters by understanding motivations and responding to given circumstances.

Each semester offers different productions, providing new learning opportunities so that students may repeat the course and learn new content. **All students in Theater: Acting (Grades 7 & 8) must attend performances.**

Theater: Find Your Voice (Grade 7 & 8)

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Course may not be repeated

- **Performance Skill Development:** Students explore theater in its epic form to build and find their unique voice. This includes writing and performing monologues and scenes, creating characters, and working as an ensemble.
- **Theater as Expression:** By studying relevant and important social issues and practitioners, as well as poets, playwrights, and political speakers who think differently about power, oppression, and society, students learn how to use theater to express opinions and create change.
- **Theoretical Framework:** The work of theorists Augusto Boal and Bertolt Brecht guides the course, providing a foundation for exploring how theater can be used to express their ideas.
- **Learning Outcomes:** By the end of the course, students have a strong foundation in theater, with the ability to express their opinions and create positive change through performance.

VISUAL ARTS

Art and Drawing

Length: Semester
Grade: Grade 6
Note: Course may not be repeated

Art and Drawing is a semester-long class where students are introduced to a variety of drawing assignments to help them improve their creativity and confidence as artists. They are also encouraged to take risks when embracing challenges, develop observational skills, and persevere in order to achieve their best results. Students are also assessed through a reflection of their learning process, showing their planning, monitoring their progress, and analyzing their learning and growth.

Art and Clay

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Course may not be repeated

In Art and Clay, students are introduced to three-dimensional projects using clay and explore different techniques to express their creativity, such as coiling and slabs. All projects are considered finished only after being fired and glazed. Students are also assessed through a reflection of their learning process, showing their planning, monitoring their progress, and analyzing their learning and growth.

Art and Color

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Course may not be repeated

In Art and Color, students learn about the importance of the principles of design in order to create a good and effective composition. They also explore the color wheel and color theory to understand the power of color and how it can affect or change the mood of a composition. Students are also assessed through a reflection of their learning process, showing their planning, monitoring their progress, and analyzing their learning and growth.

Digital Art

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Course may be repeated

This course introduces students to the art of photography and visual storytelling in the digital age. Students learn how to use a digital camera with purpose and creativity, exploring key techniques such as composition, lighting, and perspective. They study the work of influential photographers, analyze different photographic styles, and apply these insights to their own work. Through Adobe Photoshop, students develop skills in photo editing and digital enhancement to bring their artistic vision to life. The course also introduces foundational design principles and basic motion graphics using Adobe After Effects, allowing students to experiment with multimedia expression while maintaining a primary focus on photography.

Digital Video

Length: Semester
Grade: Grades 7 and 8
Note: Course may not be repeated

In this hands-on course, students develop both creative and technical skills as they learn to tell stories through film. They take part in individual and group projects that cover all aspects of moviemaking, including scriptwriting, acting, directing, filming, and editing. Using digital cameras, film equipment, and editing software, students gain practical experience while learning how to express their ideas, experiment with techniques, and create original video projects.